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MARYLAND VEGETABLE GROWERS' NEWS LETTER

Issued by
The Maryland Vegetable Growers' Association,
W. R. Ballard, Secretary-Treasurer.

Vol. 3. No. 2. College Park, Maryland. February, 1926.

Growing Lima Beans For the Cannery

Soil: Light, fairly rich loams are the best, the heavier soils causing late maturing of the crop or the rotting of the seed when planted. Richer soils than are ordinarily needed for field or string beans are advisable. The soil shouldbe fairly dry and warm at time of planting to produce best results.

Fertilizer and Lime: Probably four-hundred or five-hundred pounds of a 4-8-4 would be sufficient on the fairly rich soils. On poorer soils as high as one-thousand to one-thousand, fifteen hundred pounds of this same mixture may be used with profit. The soil reaction should be neutral or slightly alkaline.

Preparation of the Soil: A thoroughly fitted seed bed produced by sufficient harrowing will greatly aid in the planting and the growing of the crop. Good drainage is essential.

Planting: The seed should be put in ten days later than ordinary beans or from the 10th to the last of May. The crop can also be successfully grown on the same land following peas.

The rows are placed 2 1/2 to 3 feet apart, and the beans dropped 8 to 12 inches in the rows. Probably as close as 3 to 5 inches between seeds would not be detrimental and would somewhat increase yields. A corn planter with special plates for dropping the beans is generally used. It requires 1 to 1 1/2 bushels of seed to drill an acre.

The seed should be put in ten days later than ordinary beans or from the 10th to the last of May.

Care of the Crop: Cultivating five or six times to control weeds is is usually necessary for good results, depending upon frequency of rains and the type of soil used. With thorough cultivation, little or no hoeing should be necessary.

Yield: A yield of 1,200 to 1,400 pounds of shelled Lima beans might be expected, though in the best sections this can be exceeded.

Varieties: The Henderson bush Lima bean is the most popular canning variety. It is very early, fairly hardy and productive. It has a very small, green seed which is uniform in size, thus eliminating a large amount of grading.

The Fordhook bush Lima bean is also important, but is larger, slower growing and more subject to injury during adverse weather conditions.

Do You Grow Early Tomatoes For Shipping?

Professor F. W. Geise, presented at the Annual Meeting of the Association in Baltimore, some statistics of interest to early tomato growers. One phase of the situation is reviewed here.

The accompanying chart shows the picking and shipping seasons of the sections competing on the markets with the Maryland crop. It is apparent that the markets are well supplied with tomatoes at the time the Maryland shipping season opens. It is also apparent that the heavy shipments come from the southern regions, and represent the "wind up" of the crop which as a rule lacks quality. Maryland, in so far as the Eastern markets are concerned, has a splendid opportunity to deliver quality tomatoes at a time when only one or two other regions compete. From this standpoint a careful study of the chart will be well repaid.

Recent Publications.

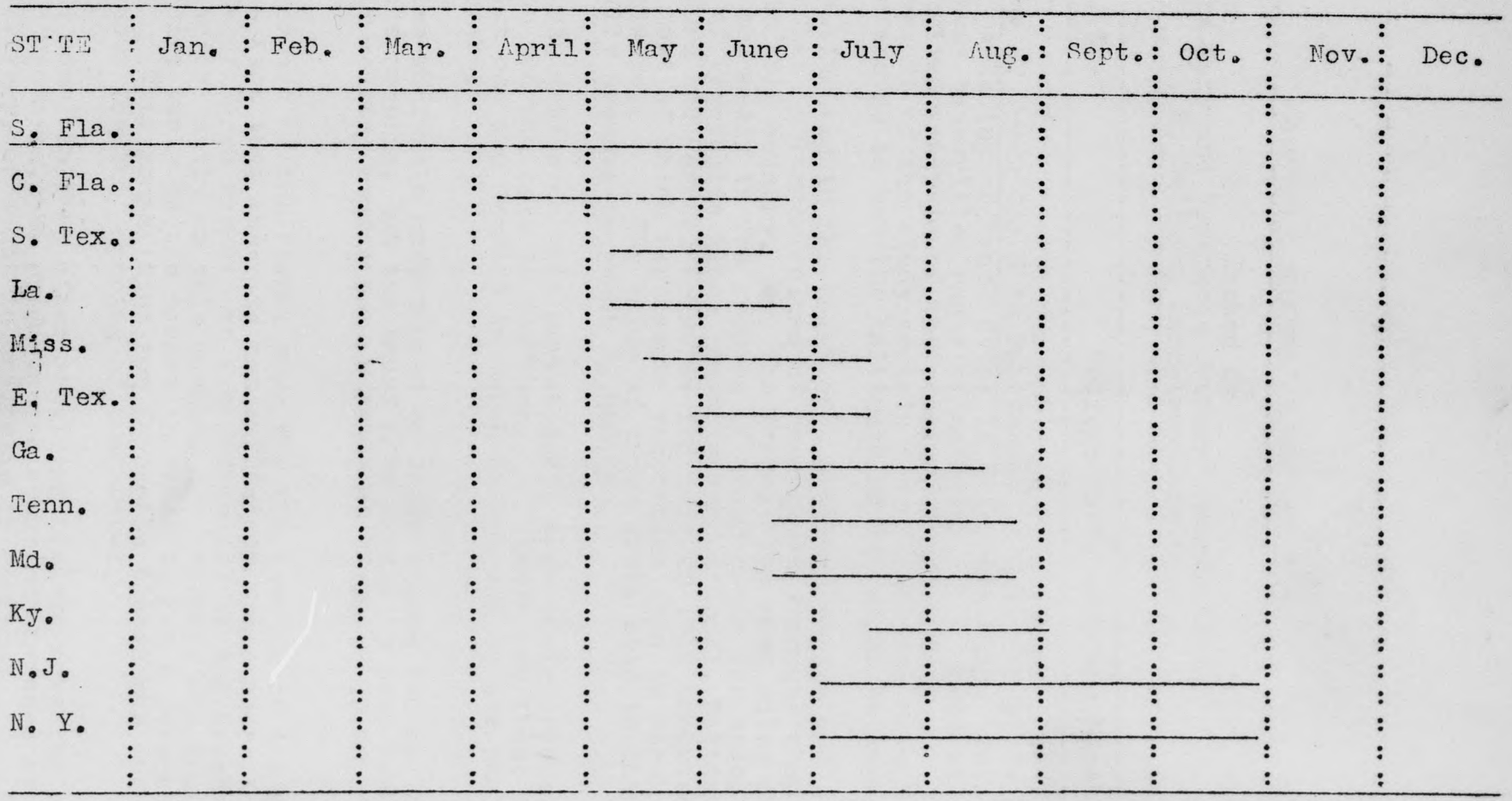
A new book "Tomato Production" has just been issued by the Orange-Judd Publishing Company, New York City. The author is Paul Work of Cornell University. He discusses the tomato as human food, plant growing, production methods diseases and insects, marketing yields, costs and profits.

Bulletin No. 34, "More Vegetables From the Home Garden," has been revised, and is to be reprinted shortly by the Extension Service, University of Maryland.

Circular No. 60, "The Cloth Covered Cold Frame" will soon be ready for distribution. This will be of special interest to growers who expect to put out an acreage of midseason tomatoes.

EARLY TOMATOES.

Shipping and Picking Seasons.



Adapted from the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

F. W. Geise,
University of Maryland,
College Park, Maryland.

VEGETABLE GROWERS' NEWS LETTER.

Issued by
The Maryland Vegetable Growers' Association,
W. R. Ballard, Secretary-Treasurer.

Vol. 3. No. 3. College Park, Maryland, March, 1926.

The Marketing of Truck Crops in Baltimore: A detailed study has been made of the marketing of truck crops in Baltimore City. This report covers eighteen typewritten pages of material. Space will not permit a detailed analysis of the results of this study. However, as a result of the study certain recommendations have been made with reference to how the Baltimore market might be improved.

Baltimore is situated in the heart of a trucking region and probably handles a larger volume of home-grown products than any other city in this country. The farmers for many miles around are engaged primarily in the growing of truck crops for sale. The total value of vegetables alone grown in Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Howard, Harford and Carroll Counties for sale in 1919 amounted to $8,071,970, most of which represents vegetables sold in Marsh Market, Baltimore. The value of truck crops sold in this market annually amounts to about $6,000,000.

The farmers who arrive on this market daily turn their produce over to commission men who sell it for them. There are about thirty-two commission men who operate in Marsh Market and on the wharf adjacent thereto.

Selling in the wholesale market used to begin around two or three o'clock in the morning, but the hours have gradually been pushed forward until selling begins now as early as 11:30 or 12:00 o'clock at night.

The moving forward of the formal hour for the opening of the market is due to the fact that there is not sufficient space under the covered sheds of Marsh Market to accomodate all of the trucks and wagons that arrive daily on this market. Farmers are thus forced to arrive early on the market in order to get a favorable location. This competition for favorable places has pushed forward the hour for the opening of the market.

Farmers often complain that after receiving tickets covering the sale of their products, the products are sometimes refused by the buyer upon delivery, or a cut in the price is demanded. Unless the farmer accepts such reduction he must return to the market hours later when usually the prices have fallen off.

It has been the observation of investigators that there is too much secrecy about the prices which are under negotiation between buyers and commission merchants. Very rarely do the buyers purchase at the original prices asked by the commission merchants. Under existing conditions the system of selling does not tend to establish uniform prices for products of like grade on this market.

There is no adequate provision for the dissemination of accurate market information as to the supply and demand, prices and other factors entering into the marketing of perishable products, thus tending to place the growers at the mercy of the buyers.

The following recommendations are offered as a means of correcting the evils above outlined:

1. Provision for more adequate shed space for farmers' wagons and trucks in order to protect them and their produce from inclement weather and to provide an equal competitive market for all.

2. Provision for assigning in advance a definite space to each farmer's wagon or truck at a nominal rental, such reservation to be recognized as valid at the discretion of the market master.

3. Provision for saving the time and eliminating hardships on the part of farmers, commission merchants and buyers by designating a later hour for the formal opening of the market.

4. Requiring in case of every sale the issuing of a sales ticket by the commission merchants showing the grade, quantity and price of product.

5. The insuring of the binding effect of prices noted by the commission merchants on sales ticket and the holding of commission merchants responsible for any change in price unless contrary reservation is set forth on sales ticket.

6. The requirement that the books of all commission merchants conform to a recognized standard and be subject to inspection in case of complaint in any particular transaction.

7. Provision for dissemination of adequate market information on the supply and demand, prices and other factors entering into the marketing of perishable products.

8. In case the present unsatisfactory conditions cannot be satisfactorily remedied either or both of the following revolutionary methods of handling perishable farm products should be put into operation:

a. The establishment of a farmers wholesale market whereby the farmers would be permitted to sell their own products, or to employ their own salesmen to sell for them.

b. The establishment of an auction market for disposing of the farmers' products. Two or three auction blocks could be established if needed to dispose of the products rapidly.

Food Value of Tomatoes:* During the past ten years the tomato has been as highly praised for its food value as any single product with the possible exception of milk. The following tables give analysis figures from Atwater and Woods (U. S. Department of Agriculture).

	No. of determinations.	Water.	Protein	Fat	Carbohydrates including Fibre.	Fibre	Ash	Fuel Value Per lb.
Fresh	27	94.3	0.9	0.4	3.9	0.6	0.5	104
Canned	19	94.0	1.2	0.2	0.5	0.5	0.6	103
Dried	1	7.3	12.9	8.1	62.3	---	9.4	1695

It is apparent that the tomato cannot be regarded as an outstanding source of protein or of energy-food. It consists chiefly of water. Nor does its iron content rank very high. The acid is chiefly malic (0.48) though critic acid is present (0.09), along with a small amount of oxalic acid. (0.01).

Vitamins: The high praise which the tomato calls forth from nutrition experts rests largely upon the content of those mysterious substances that have been named vitamins and upon the food value as demonstrated in actual practice. H. C. Sherman summarizes the information as to vitamin content of foods in a table using a single plus mark to denote the presence, two marks a good source, and three marks an excellent source. The tomato rating is as follows:

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(*From Paul Work's Book "Tomato Production," published by the Orange-Judd Publishing Company, New York City, New York.)

	Vitamin A. anti-rachitic.	Vitamin B. anti-beri-beri. anti-neuritic.	Vitamin C. anti-scurvy.
Raw,	+ + +	+ + +	+ + +
Cooked,	+ +	+ + +	+ + +
Canned,	+ +	+ + +	+ + +
Dried,	+ +	+ + +	+ +

Spinach is the only food in Sherman's list which surpasses the tomato by showing nine marks. The fact that the activity of the tomato vitamins is practically unchanged on cooking or canning is of prime importance. The price of tomatoes is low and someone has called this fruit the "poor man's orange."

In content of vitamine A. the tomato ranks with lettuce, below spinach, and above cabbage. For vitamin B it is twice as rich as turnip or onion and half as rich as yeast (all considered on a dry weight basis). It ranks with orange and lemon juice for vitamin C, which is found in fewer sources than the others.

Nutrition specialists give weight to the value of appetizers in the diet, and in this connection the tomato is accorded a high place.

Rate of Seeding for Canning Peas: Several demonstration tests were conducted during 1925 by the Extension Service to determine the most economical rate of seeding peas. Plots planted at the rate of four, four and one-half, five and five and one-half bushels per acre were compared. This work was supervised by Mr. A. D. Radebaugh.

Results showed that four and one-half bushels per acre was the best rate of seeding. Four bushels produced insufficient vines and five or more bushels either produced too many vines for the best yields or failed to give sufficient increase to pay for the additional cost of seed.

Several canners have ordered seed for their 1926 acreage based upon these tests. It will be interesting to see if this rate of seeding continues to be the most economical over a series of years and on different types of soil.

Suckering Sweet Corn: The majority of farms in the state growing corn are of the opinion that suckering (the removal of the so-called suckers, which are small stalklike growth appearing at the base of the stalk), gives increased yields and are practicing this costly operation.

Experimental results in Maryland, New York and elsewhere show that total yields are decreased by suckering and the quality of the corn is not improved as generally supposed. Economical production of sweet corn is very essential for Maryland growers and the elimination of suckering offers a simple method of cutting production costs.

VEGETABLE GROWERS' NEWS LETTER

Issued by
W. R. Ballard, Secretary-Treasurer,
The Maryland Vegetable Growers' Association.

Vol. 3. No. 4. College Park, Md. April, 1926.

Our New Representative.

President J. E. Patten, has recently appointed Mr. James W. Davis, Rocks, Maryland to represent our Association as Director for the Agricultural Corporation. At a recent conference plans were worked out for a closer cooperation between the Farm Bureau and the Agricultural Corporation.

An Announcement.

It will be of interest to note that a new publication, "The American Produce Grower," is to make its appearance with the September issue. This periodical proposes to do for the vegetable grower what "The American Fruit Grower" has so well done for the fruit growers of the country. Harry W. Walker, the able manager of the Fruit Grower, is to have charge also of the new public ation. He has associated with him an able staff of writers, and the field to be covered is the growing of vegetables on the extensive scale rather than that of the market gardener, -- the latter field being well cared for by the Market Growers' Journal. The headquarters for the new magazine will be Chicago, Illinois.

Sweet Potatoes Require Fertilizers High in Potash: More evidence has been presented the past season which shows more conclusively that the sweet potato grown under our sandy soil conditions respond well to fertilizers high in potash. Professor Fred W. Geise, Maryland Experiment Station, College Park, Maryland, has recently published an article on sweet potato production which includes some rather striking results of certain tests conducted on the Eastern Shore during the season of 1924.

Van Horn Farm, Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland: The soil was of the Norfolk sand type and the field had been cleared of fine woods about five years ago. The following fertilizer ingredients were used in making the various analyses:

One-half Nitrogen from Nitrate of Soda, 18 percent,
One-half Nitrogen from Dried Blood, 16 percent,
Phosphorus from acid Phosphate, 16 percent,
Potassium from Muriate of Potash, 50 percent.

The fertilizer was applied at the rate of 1,000 pounds per acre. Good cultural methods were followed throughout the season. The Big Stem variety was grown.

Yield of Marketable Sweet Potatoes From Plots Treated With Fertilizer in Which the Amount of Nitrogen and Potash Has Been Varied.

Average Yield per Acre From Duplicate Plots of One-Twentieth Acre Each.

Plot.	Pounds Fertilizer Per Acre.	Bushels per Acre.	Bushels Increase.
1	No fertilizer*	108	---
2	1,000 lbs. of 2-8-8	134	26
3	1,000 lbs. of 2-8-10	174	66
4	1,000 lbs. of 3-8-8	134	26
5	1,000 lbs. of 3-8-10	157	48

(* Average of four plots).

A comparison of the yields from the different plots indicates that a 2-8-10 as compared with a 2-8-8 is to be preferred; also that the 3-8-10 out-yielded the 3-8-8. There was no response from the use of increased nitrogen.

The Annual Report: The manuscript for the Annual Report of the Vegetable Growers' Association is ready for the printer. It is hoped that the reports of the various meetings held in Baltimore last January may soon be available to the members.

Cantaloupe Growing: Cantaloupesrespond well to the liberal use of manure but in the increasing scarcity of such material, frequent inquiries are received as to wehther commercial fertilizers could be substituted. At the outset it should be kept in mind that the roots of this crop are very sensitive to injury from chemical fertilizers, so that whatever is used should be mixed thoroughly with the soil. When fairly heavy applications are used, the fertilizer should be broadcasted. Experimental evidence indicates that the

best practical thing to do is to use a mixture fairly high in nitrogen, the 7-6-5, similar to that recommended for early potatoes being about as good as any. It will be preferable to have one-third of the nitrogen in the form of Nitrate of Soda and the remainder in the form of tankage or other organic compounds. The amount to use will vary with the fertility of the soil. Without the manure from 800 to 1,000 pounds of this mixture could be used per acre. Where some manure is available, it may be supplemented with a 4-8-4 commercial mixture.

VEGETABLE GROWERS' NEWS LETTER

Issued by
W. R. Ballard, Secretary-Treasurer,
The Maryland Vegetable Growers' Association.

Vol. 3. No. 5. College Park, Maryland, May, 1923.

"Swat" the Asparagus Beetle: Immense damage is sometimes done to young asparagus fields by the asparagus beetle. In order to develop strong crowns which will give profitable returns it is desirable to secure as vigorous a growth as possible in the early life of the plantings. To do this provision should early be made for dusting the beds to control the beetles. In experimental tests four percent nicotine dusts have given excellent control. Professor E. N. Cory, State Entomologist recommends that growers use preferably the commercially mixed dusts as near four percent as can be secured. Dusts should be applied in the heat of the day. On beds not being cut, fifteen pounds of powdered arsenate of lead should be added to each one-hundred pounds of dust. Apply as often as necessary to maintain a coating on the plants.

Vegetable growers would find one of the better types of Knapsack Dust Guns, costing from $20.00 to $25.00 a very useful apparatus to have at hand for applying dusts to various vegetable crops.

Flea Beetle on Tomatoes: One should keep a sharp lookout for the flea beetle in the tomato plant beds. Thorough spraying with Bordeaux-Arsenate, 4-5-50, or dusting with a suitable dust mixture is necessary to control the ravages of this insect. The control of the flea beetle is one of the most important factors in the production of high grade plants. The dry season makes it all the more imperative to look after this important operation.

Canteloupe Blight: Dusting canteloupes for the control of the leaf blight seems to give excellent results. The dehydrated copper sulphate and lime dust is recommended for this purpose. The dust should contain twenty percent of copper sulphate for effective control. Five applications are required in the normal season and one-hundred pounds of dust per acre are needed.

For controlling the beetles one can rely on dusting to good advantage. Keeping the leaves covered with hydrated lime often gives good results. Various substances are used as repellents.

The nicotine dusts have the advantage of killing the insects when conditions are favorable. The box fumigator has been used effectively by some growers.

The Weather: April is reported to have been the dryest and coldest April in fifteen years. The dry weather has continued well into the month of May. The Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin for the week ending May 11th states that, while generous and beneficial rains have occurred in the northwestern and midwestern states, in the Atlantic coast area it is still much too dry from Maryland southward, and growing crops are badly in need of moisture and germination is slow. Very light and ineffectual showers occurred on the 10th. The ground is unusually dry for this time of the year.

Early potatoes are mostly up in the southern portion of the Eastern Shore and are coming up slowly in the northern section. Peas are up except in the Alleghany mountain region. They are doing fairly well, and in the extreme southern portion of the Eastern Shore are coming into bloom. Tomato plants are being set out, except in western Maryland. Transplanting of sweet potatoes has not yet begun. The growing season continued considerably behind normal, owing to cool and dry weather, but farm work is well up.

The Herb Garden: The old fashioned herb garden is not often seen in these modern days. This decline is due partly to the discovery that their medicinal value had been much over rated. However their value for seasoning is still of value and we may expect a gradual increase in the use of certain of these types. The French chefs know how to utilize this material to advantage in concocting very appetizing dishes. Some recent investigations indicate that the aromatic oils from which these herbs give the characteristic flavors so well known, have important effects on the functioning of certain of the ductless glands of the body. It may develop that the wide use of herbs by our grandmothers was well founded in physiological fact, although they are not cure-alls as formerly reputed to be.

Growers interested in this subject might find good cultural information in a little book by M. G. Kains, published by the Orange-Judd Publishing Company, New York City.

Study Made of Roadside Markets in Maryland: A study has been made by the Experiment Station of the University of Maryland of roadside markets. This report is now in the hands of the printer and should be available for distribution in bulletin form in the near future. The information contained in the report was obtained through personal observation and investigation of 275 roadside markets. Of the 275 stands studied 150 sold such miscellaneous commodities as gasoline, beverages, candy, cigars, hot dogs, etc. 100 were

typical farmers' stands, operated by farmers, while there were 25 stands operated by non-farmers who sold farm produce.

The following includes some of the major features of the study: The development of roadside markets, local transportation, types of market stands, location, conducting the markets products sold, advertising, grading and standardization, value of display, prices, operating costs, profitableness, abuses of roadside selling, and suggestions for improvement.

The results of this study should be of interest to fruit and vegetable growers, since these products are of major importance from the standpoint of sales made at roadside market stands. The report is well illustrated, containing 27 photographs and 17 statistical tables. The number of the bulletin is 280, and the title is "Roadside Markets in Maryland." Those desiring copies should write to the Experiment Station, University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland.

VEGETABLE GROWERS' NEWS LETTER

Issued by the Maryland Vegetable Growers' Association,
W. R. Ballard, Secretary-Treasurer,

Vol. 3. No. 6. College Park, Md. June, 1926.

Of Interest to Dorchester: The Bureau of Soils, U. S. Department of Agriculture, in cooperation with the Maryland Geological Survey, and the Maryland Agricultural Experiment Station, has just issued a publication, "The Soil Survey of Dorchester County, Maryland."

This bulletin discusses the climate, agriculture, and the character and distribution of soil types, the natural vegetation and the adaptability of soil types to the production of various agricultural crops. This should be of especial interest to growers in Dorchester County and to those contemplating moving to this area.

Do You Get A Good Stand of Late Potatoes? Due to the high temperatures usually prevailing early in July when the main or late crop of potatoes are planted, many growers fail to secure good stands, particularly of the Rural group, when large potatoes are cut before planting.

Scotch growers have found that when the cut potatoes are kept on cold storage at a temperature of 40° Fahrenheit for from one to two weeks, that the cut surfaces callous over so that they may be planted with much less danger of rots developing. Growers who have access to cold storage facilities might find this method worth looking into, particularly since keeping varieties of the Rural group on cold storage, up until a short time before planting, has been found to be good practice under normal conditions.

A Test of Spinach Varieties: Eight varieties of spinach were tested at the Maryland Experiment Station this spring with particular reference to yields and to their adaptability as canning stock. As a result of one year's trial the King of Denmark proved to be the variety standing the longest before throwing up a seed stalk and gave the heaviest yield. Triumph was the next in line as far as yield was concerned.

The Topepo: Quite a controversy is raging in the Market Growers' Journal between the Stokes Seed Company, and Mr. John F. O'Keefe, Cupertino, California, relative to the merits of the new vegetable "Topepo" which has been extensively advertised recently. Mr. O'Keefe claims to have originated the Topepo by hybridizing the Stone tomato, and the Bell pepper.

The Stokes Seed Company says that the "Topepo is nothing in the world but the large sweet, squash pepper." This has been known for many years, and is often grown as a novelty. It would seem that such a cross as that which Mr. O'Keefe is claimed to have made may not be an impossibility, yet it does appear to be highly improbable. Definite experimental evidence may be necessary to settle this mooted question.

Broccoli: This is a vegetable quite similar in character to cauliflower, although it cannot compare with it in quality. It seems to be able to withstand greater extremes of temperature. It cultural requirements are similar to that of cauliflower. The Norfolk Truck Experiment Station has found that with these crops it is especially important to keep them growing without check in order to secure a high percentage of heading. A constant and adequate moisture supply is therefore extremely important. Some growers find that a heavy mulch of hay or straw keeps the soil cooler and helps to retain the moisture during the hot season of the year.

Tomato Field Meeting: Talbot County is having a field meeting on Friday, June 25th at 2:00 P.M. at the farm of Mr. MacKenzie Goldsborough, near the Miles River Bridge. A number of interesting features will be in evidence, such as approved methods of plant production, object lessons in planting, comparisons in varieties, etc. There is developing in this county quite an industry in shipping cooperatively early "green wraps." Growers who can avail themselves of this opportunity to meet with the Talbot County growers and discuss methods and problems will be well repaid.

S. O. S.

This time-honored distress signal is becoming chronic with the Secretary of the Maryland Vegetable Growers' Association, but this is just a little reminder that every member has a duty to perform in talking up the organization and assisting in building up the membership. We need a great many more members, not so much for the financial support as for the opportunity it gives for a greater measure of service to the vegetable growing industry. Send in the names of growers who would be suitable prospects for membership in the Association. You can help the Secretary also by sending in News items or information regarding crops. Or if you are having problems in connection with the culture of certain crops, let them be known, and the Secretary will do his best to find a solution.

VEGETABLE GROWERS' NEWS LETTER.

Issued by
W. R. Ballard, Secretary-Treasurer,
The Maryland Vegetable Growers' Association.

Vol. 3. No. 7. College Park, Maryland. July,1926.

Experimental Canning Plant: The Experiment Station has just completed the installation of an experimental canning plant at the University of Maryland. Operations will begin in a few days with stringless beans. A number of varieties and strains of beans are being grown in test plots for this purpose. They are to be canned under similar conditions with the view of making the canned product available for inspection and study as a final test of the various varieties grown.

Tomato varieties and strains will also be canned to test their suitability for canning purposes. Other crops will be studied in like manner as the project develops.

The Experiment Station is investigating a number of subjects relating to the improvement of the canning quality of vegetable products. The effect of soils and fertilizers, green manures and cropping systems, disease control, and the improvement of crops through plant breeding, are some of the phases being given careful attention.

Cucumber Mosaic or "White Pickle;" This is a disease which causes a mottled appearance of the leaves. The plants turn yellow and often wilt slowly. The fruits are roughly warted and mottled and where the disease is severe the entire crop may be ruined. The cause of the disease is unknown, but it is certain that it can be carried by insects from poke weed and other common weeds which harbor the disease.

Recent inspections have shown the presence of the disease in cucumber fields in Wicomico County. In some fields the disease was so prevalent as to render the entire crop unsalable. In most cases such fields were in close proximity to wood lot clearings or barnyards where poke weed was abundant. Because the disease is carried over by perennial weeds it is particularly important to keep the cucumber fields at a safe distance from fence rows or other places where these weeds flourish. It is a safe precaution too, to remove all infected plants from cucumber fields, pulling them up and taking them from the field as soon as they can be recognized, and before insects have an opportunity to carry the disease to healthy plants. Effective control of insects is important in this connection.

Canteloupes are also subject to the Mosaic disease and the same precautions recommended for cucumbers are necessary with this crop.

Cannery Peas: The Experiment Station of the University of Maryland is conducting experiments and collecting data upon some of the most important factors influencing the yield and quality of peas. Although the investigations are not yet complete, afew striking points are well worth emphasis at this time.

Except in the mountainous regions of the state, very early planting is to be urged -- just as early as the ground can be worked in the spring. Delayed planting throws the plant into two warm weather for its best development, with a great reduction in the growth of vines and the number of pods per vine. Poorer stands usually result from late sowing. Plant early.

Peas respond favorably to the use of lime on Maryland soils. It is not sufficient to merely apply lime blindly for too much may be harmful, as well as too little. Growers are urged to have the lime requirement of their fields determined, and then apply the requisite amount. The Experiment Station at College Park will determine the lime requirement of your soil, free of charge.

It was formerly claimed that the pea is a "poor land" crop; that the soil upon which peas are grown should not be too rich. Rather extensive observations and some fertilizer experiments show that there is little to be feared from getting the soil too rich for peas. 300 to 400 pounds 3-8-3 or 4-8-4 is recommended for cannery peas. More may be used for the higher priced, market garden crop. At least one-third, preferably half, of the nitrogen in the fertilizer should be derived from nitrate of soda. The balance may be made up of organic materials.

The importance of handling peas rapidly, from harvest to the cannery, or to the market, is to be emphasized. The quality of peas deteriorates rapidly. After harvesting they should be moved to market or the cannery with all possible speed.

Pea seed should be bought with care. Much of the seed on the market produces an appreciable percentage of plants which are badly "off-type" and which are markedly less productive than the variety which they contaminate. Inquiry should be made among those experienced in pea growing in order to locate thoroughly dependable seed. A number of dealers who specialize in pea seed are furnishing an excellent quality of seed to the trade.

"Broccoli Greens" Growers on the Eastern Shore of Virginia and Maryland ship to northern markets a form of "Greens" termed broccoli. In Vilmorin-Andrieux's, "The Vegetable Garden," by W. Robinson, this vegetable is described as follows:

"Sprouting Broccoil, a variety with green shoots is most commonly grown in England. The flowerx of which are partially abortive and form at the end of every shoot a small bulging mass or lump of a greenish yellow color . . . . . These shoots are produced in succession for a long time, and they are gathered as they lengthen and before the flowers open, and are used like green asparagus, from which circumstance the plant has received the name of Asparagus Broccoli."

George Tait & Sons, Norfolk, Virginia in their catalog "Thoroughbred Seeds," 1926, page 10, lists this form of Broccoli under "Italian Green Sprouting," It is understood that this is one of the principal sources of seed.

Tomato Field Meeting: About twenty-five growers and specialists gathered at the home of Mr. Mackenzie Goldsboro on the Miles River in Talbot County on the afternoon of June 25th to go over the demonstration plots of early tomatoes. The most outstanding feature was a field of Sunnybrook Earliana about one and one-fourth acres in extent, with the most remarkable crown set of fruit. Clusters of eight to nine fruits were common and the field was quite uniform, the crown clusters probably averaging five fruits. The demonstration was convincing evidence of the value of specially selected seed and of well grown plants grown in hotbed and cold frame. Mr. Goldsboro's ability as a grower of early tomatoes was again effectively demonstrated.

Bean Tests: The Maryland Experiment Station's test of stringless bean varieties from different sources, has created considerable interest among canners and growers. There are three of these tests located at Ridgely, Bel Air and College Park respectively. The varieties included are Bountiful, Giant Stringless Greenpod, Burpee's Stringless Greenpod, Refugee, and Kearney's Stringless Refugee.

Seed of each of these varieties grown in Idaho, Michigan and New York are being used in the tests. In addition, stock of Burpee's Stringless Greenpod from western Maryland is included. The results for this season indicate the value of the Idaho sources.

VEGETABLE GROWERS' NEWS LETTER.

Issued by
The Maryland Vegetable Growers' Association,
W. R. Ballard, Secretary-Treasurer.

Vol 3. No. 8. College Park, Md. August, 1926.

Late Potatoes: The general condition of the late potatoes over the state seems to be fairly good. Mosaic is prevalent in many sections and in Western Maryland rhizoctonia (little potato) is bad, in some fields about eight percent of the plants being affected. With the recent rains, the late blight is likely to develop where fields have not been sprayed.

A Spinach Test: Arrangements have been completed for a test of spinach varieties at the Ridgely sub-station similar to that conducted at College Park last season. Observations will be made on the ability to winter over successfully as well as to the relative lenght of time strains keep in good condition before running up to seed.

Plowing Down Tomato Fields: An efficient method of controlling certain tomato diseases is the plowing down of the old fields in the fall after the last picking of fruit. On light soils it is essential to plant a cover crop of some sort to prevent washing of the soil. Dr. Pritchard of the U. S. Department of Agriculture has secured data which indicates that this is one of the best controls for the tomato leaf spot, (Septoria).

The Tomato Crop: Reports from the main producing areas of tomatoes in Maryland indicate not over sixty percent of a normal crop. Quality will be correspondingly low. In a recent survey covering most of the important producing sections, it was found that the early blight was quite prevalent. Plants are practically defoliated by the disease in Dorchester, Caroline and Talbot counties. However, since the crop matures earlier in these counties than in the northern section, the crop was well matured before the damage developed. Dr. Norton of the Maryland Experiment Station, stated that practically no septoria leaf spot was found.

Seven test plots of tomatoes located at Chesapeake City, Chestertown, Cordova, Federalsburg, Hurlock, Madison, and Ridgely have proved of considerable interest to the growers. Some of the varieties being tested are: Bolgiano's Greater Baltimore, Livingston's Stone, two strains of Bonny Best from Stokes, Marglobe, Columbia, Maryland Solid, Maryland Slicing, Radebaugh's selection and certain local selections. In the Dorchester test all wilt resistant

varieties are being used. In practically all tests the new Marglobe variety, originated by the U. S. Department of Agriculture, has shown up well in comparison with other varieties.

Exhibiting Vegetables: This is the season of the year when growers are interested in making exhibits at the county fairs and at community shows. Considerable time and thought is required to put up a creditable display. Uniformity of product is a very essential factor in the prize winning exhibits. This uniformity applies to size, shape and many times to color and condition. Another factor which should be stressed is the edible condition of the product. This is sometimes controlled by the season in which the exhibit is staged, but ordinarily young, tender summer squash should have precedence over matured specimens which are so hard as to require an ax to disember them. The same rule should apply to beets, carrots and other types where the fresh condition of the product determines their value for food.

Mexican Bean Beetle Arrives in Maryland: The long expected advent of the Mexican bean beetle in Maryland has come to pass. Representatives of the Department of Entomology, University of Maryland have discovered the pest this summer in most sections of Garrett County. It will now doubtless march steadily eastward to sections where the various types of beans are important commercial crops.

Please see the inclosed circular, written by Mr. P. D. Sanders, Assistant State Entomologist, for information concerning the Mexican Bean Beetle.

Another Insect Scare: Considerable excitement developed among government entomologists when a single Japanese beetle was found recently in a garden at Chevy Chase, District of Columbia. Diligent search through this area failed to locate other individuals of this destructive insect, so that the threatened calamity may be averted for the present. It is surprising that this pest has not gained a foothold in the State, as the tremendous amount of traffic from infested areas would seem to offer an excellent avenue of spread despite the vigilant system of inspection in operation. Anyone finding new insects of any kind should report to the County Agents or to the Entomological Department at College Park.

THE MEXICAN BEAN BEETLE

The Mexican Bean Beetle has been known as a serious pest of beans in wouthwestern United States for many years, but it was not until 1920 that it was found east of the Mississippi River. That year it was found near Birmingham, Alabama, and by 1925 had spread northward to northern Ohio. It was found in Maryland for the first time this summer and is now spread throughout Garrett County. Inasmuch as this insect is capable under certain conditions of completely destroying a bean crop it will be wise for growers of beans to learn to recognize it, understand its habits and know how to prevent its injuries.

In the adult stage this insect is a yellowish brown beetle about 1/4 inch long with sixteen small black spots on its back. The beetles pass the winter hidden away under rubbish in woodlands near the bean fields and return the following spring to begin feeding and egglaying. Yellow eggs are deposited in clusters of forty or fifty on the underside of a leaf. These hatch in from six to ten days into short, stout yellow larvae (worms) that are covered with sharp brown spines. It is the feeding of these larvae on the underside of the leaves that causes most of the injury. The green portion of the leaf is eaten away leaving a network of the leaf veins. The larvae feed for an average of twenty days; they then go into a resting stage for about seven days after which they emerge as adult beetles. A generation is produced every thirty-three days.

CONTROL.--Beans may be protected from the beetles by dusting them thoroughly with a mixture of one pound calcium arsenate and 5 to 9 pounds of hydrated lime. This should be applied early in the morning when the plants are damp, in order to have it stick well. There are several types of dusters on the market designed for truck crop dusting. If a duster is not available the dust may be applied by dusting it through a muslin bag. Pyrethrum insect powder has shown promise in killing the larvae in small tests and where only a few beans are planted it might be a practical method of control.

VEGETABLE GROWERS' NEWS LETTER.

Issued by
The Maryland Vegetable Growers' Association,
W. R. Ballard, Secretary-Treasurer.

Vol. 3. No. 9. College Park, Md. September, 1926.

A Costly Mistake: A certain cabbage grower in Harford County, who has been very successful in growing this crop, purchased seed of Stein's Late Flat Dutch from a well known seedsman, from whom in previous years he had received satisfactory stock. Besides disposing of surplus plants to neighbors this grower set in his own fields 70,000 plants with the expectation of supplying the Baltimore market in October and November with a high grade product. His dismay may be imagined when he found his cabbage maturing about the middle of August when the market was over-supplied. To make matters worse the cabbage turned out to be a medium sized, round headed type for which there was little demand. The seedsman acknowledged that Stein's Late Flat Dutch seed was sold to this grower and the price of the seed was refunded. However, the grower figured his loss on the crop at $2,800. Because of the non-warranty clause the grower had no legal comeback on the seedsman, but he hopes that some adjustment can be made.

Since cabbage seed retains its viability for several seasons, it would seem to be the part of wisdom for growers to purchase their seed a year in advance and check up on the variety by setting out a hundred plants or more for testing purposes.

Tomato Field Meeting and Tour: On Tuesday, August 31st growers and canners of the Tri-State territory met at the Ridgely Experiment Station, Ridgely, Maryland to look over the tests of tomato varieties. The forenoon was devoted to special county tours, all groups then meeting at the Ridgely State Farm for lunch. After inspecting the tomato variety tests and the fields grown for the production of seed by the Tri-State-Packers' Association, under Extension Service supervision, a short program was held. Short talks were made by Dr. T. B. Symons, Director of the Extension Service, Professor F. W. Geise, Vegetable Gardening Department, Mr. N. H. Fooks, President of the Tri-State Packers' Association, Secretaries Shook and Dashiell, Mr. A. D. Radebaugh, and others. Mr. L. M. Goodwin, Canning Crops Specialist of the Extension Service had general charge of the meeting.

Condition of Tomatoes in Maryland: The condition of tomatoes for manufacture in Maryland as given by the U. S. Bureau of Markets is as follows:

On August 15th the report gave 69 percent. On September 1st this figure had fallen to 46 percent. This figure being based on a nine years average of 62 percent for this date. On September 1st, last year, the figure stood at 69 percent. Sweet corn was 72 percent on September 1st, as comparedwith a nine year average of 77 percent. Last year the condition rated 107 percent, a point much higher than the average.

Potato Tuber Moth: Apparently conditions this season have not been favorable for the development of the potato tuber moth. One isolated larva was found in Worcester County, but indications are that the injury this year will be negligible.

Test cases of the validity of the Virginia regulations prohibiting the planting of second crop potatoes will come up for trial at the November term of the Accomac County Court.

The mosaic diseases have been so destructive to the McCormick potato as largely to drive it out of cultivation in the state. Seed stock practically free from mosaic was secured from Pennsylvania a year or so ago and where grown in fields isolated from other potatoes, and carefully rogued, are still giving good yields. Most of the growers have substituted the New Jersey Red for this variety. One advantage of this change is that the red potato has much better quality than the McCormick, and the local markets have become sufficiently familiar with the variety not to discriminate against it on account of color.

Saving Tomato Seed: The home saving of tomato seed has, in many cases, been attended with increased yields, and where careful selection is followed, is undoubtedly worth while. Part of the value of such seed may be due to the increased vigor of plants from seed selected for freedom from disease. It is important in the beginning to start with the very best strain obtainable.

The process of saving seed is very simply. For the average grower the best method is to go over the field just as the fruit is beginning to ripen and mark with a stake individual plants which have a heavy set of uniform fruit of the type desired. Save at least all the fruit of the crown set. Place these fruits in a barrel, crush and add a little water. Allow the mass to stand two or three days to ferment, stirring occasionally. The seed will settle to the bottom and the pulp may then be poured off. Wash the seed carefully, then spread out to dry in a well ventilated place. Dry the seed quickly to prevent germination. As soon asthe seed is dry store where it will be protected from the mice.

THE VEGETABLE GROWERS' NEWS LETTER

Issued by
W. R. Ballard, Secretary-Treasurer,
The Maryland Vegetable Growers' Association.

Vol. 3. No. 10. College Park, Maryland October 1926

A Book of Value to Vegetable Growers: The 1925 Agriculture Yearbook issued by the United States Department of Agriculture is a publication of unusual interest to vegetable growers. Practically the entire volume is given over to a discussion of fruits and vegetables. About one hundred pages is devoted to the report of W. M. Jardine, Secretary of Agriculture. Then follows approximately 600 pages of text dealing with the following subjects. Fruits and Vegetables, Relation of the Fruit and Vegetable Industry to Other Farm Enterprises, Nutritive value of Fruits, Vegetables and Nuts, Fruit and Vegetable Production, Diseases and Pests of Fruits and Vegetables, Horticultural Manufactures, Marketing Fruits and Vegetables, Federal and State Research and Information Service, Horticultural Outlook.

An additional 600 pages are devoted to Agricultural statistics of which about 100 pages are devoted to fruits and vegetables. This publication is for free distribution and may be secured from your representative in Congress as long as the supply lasts, or it may be purchased from the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Printing Office, Washington, D. C.

Listening In at the Noon Hour: The United States Department of Agriculture has established a broadcasting service over the station W. R. C. Material is presented in dialogue fashion with question and answer. Subjects of interest to vegetable growers are broadcasted only on Thursday from 12:00 M to about 12:15 P. M. Growers with receiving sets might pick up some interesting and valuable information by tuning in on W. R. C. at this hour.

The University of Maryland hasbeen broadcasting a series of talks over W. M. A. L. which is the M. A. Leese station in Washington. These talks are given every Tuesday evening at 7:00 P. M.

Late Gardens: Because of the abundant fall rains, late planted carrots, beets, turnips, squashes, etc. have developed in splendid shape. Late potatoes have been favored by the absence of killing frosts. While celery is not grown extensively in Maryland, plantings in suitable locations are looking unusually well. Spinach, kale and other late "greens" have been flourishing.

Help Wanted: A tentative program is being worked out for the Annual Meetings of the Maryland Vegetable Growers' Association to be held in Baltimore, January 5-6, 1927. Now is the time for the members to come forward with their suggestions as to the subjects they would like to have discussed. Have you had trouble in controlling insects and diseases? Would you like to know more about the use of fertilizers in the production of truck crops? Are you satisfied with the way you are grading and packing your products? Have you had unusual success in the production or in the marketing of certain vegetable crops? The secretary will welcome any suggestion as to how to make the meetings interesting and instructive.

The committee on general arrangements has scheduled the Association with morning sessions on Wednesday and Thursday and this should give time for the presentation of valuable papers as well as for discussion of debatable points.

A new Magazine Appears: With the September issue the new American Produce Grower has made its initial bow to the reading public. This publication is to be devoted exclusively to the field of the commercial vegetable grower. It is proposed to make this a truly national paper, covering the vegetable growing business for the entire country. The latest scientific information will be made available through an advisory board of contributing editors which includes representatives from practically every state in the Union. Maryland's representative is Fred W. Geise, Professor of Truck Crops, University of Maryland.

Some of the features in the first issue are "Some Suggestions Regarding the 1926 Potato Crop" by Wm. Stuart of the United States Department of Agriculture; "Greenhouse Soil Sterilization" by D. H. Brown of Purdue University; "The Storage of Celery" by W. R. Beattie, U. S. Dept. of Agr.; "Celery Bleaching" by W. B. Nissley of Pennsylvania State College, and "Vegetables Under Glass" by J. H. Gourley of the Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station.

The American Produce Grower is published by the International Trade Press, Inc. 53 W. Jackson Blvd., Chicago, Illinois. Harry W. Walker is the publisher and H. F. Thompson is the managing editor.

Suckering Sweet Corn: Bulletin 450 published by Cornell University on the "Results of Sweet Corn Suckering Experiments" should be read by growers who have been practicing this method in Maryland. Contrary to general opinion the benefits purported to follow "suckering" failed to show up in these experiments and where the operation was delayed until the time of tasseling the yield was reduced about five percent. When it is considered that the cost of suckering ranges from three to six dollars per acre, our Maryland growers should carefully consider the advisability of giving up this practice. If any grower wishes to check up on the method under local conditions, he should set aside a certain number of rows in various parts of the field for suckering, leaving check plots for comparison. Records of the cost of suckering and the relative yields should be accurately kept. This should be carried on for at least three years to eliminate the variation in climatic conditions.

UNIVERSITY HORTICULTURAL SHOW

November 13th and 14th will be notable days for the Horticultural Department of the University of Maryland when the annual fruit flower and vegetable show will be staged.

Some of the features will be a Japanese garden, floral exhibit, fruit display, vegetable display, canning crops display, operation of cannery used in horticultural experimental work.

On the evening of November 13th the Hort Club will give a banquet in the New Dining Hall. A limited number of plates will be available for visitors. Reservations at $1.00 per plate should be made at an early date. It is expected that Dr. R. A. Pearson and representatives of the Horticultural Industry of the State will make addresses.

On Saturday afternoon a football game between teams representing the University of Virginia and the University of Maryland will furnish the thrills for those interested in athletic events.

All the friends of Horticulture in the State are invited to attend and enjoy these events.

VEGETABLE GROWERS' NEWS LETTER

Issued by
The Maryland Vegetable Growers' Association,
W. R. Ballard, Secretary-Treasurer.

Vol. 3. No. 11. College Park, Maryland. November 1926

The Annual Meetings

The program for the annual meetings of the Association in Baltimore next January, is practically complete. Some of the topics to be discussed are production of asparagus, maintenance of soil fertility, market gardening in Maryland, the Marglobe tomato, tomato blights, plant bed structures and early plants, insect pests and competition in marketing. There will be two sessions, one on Wednesday morning, the other on Thursday morning. The sessions are scheduled at the Rennert Hotel. It is hoped that the program will be of sufficient interest to make this annual get-to-gether worth while to the entire membership.

Echoes from the Tomato Conference.

At the annual conference of county agent and specialists interested in the tomato improvement project in Baltimore, November 5th, reports were received from the counties recounting the experiences with this crop during the past season. Dr. T. B. Symons in opening the conference called attention to the fact that Italian importations of tomato products were of such high quality as to command a premium. The great need on the part of canners is to improve the quality of the home product. This essentially is the best answer to the Italian threat. The canners need the cooperation of the growers in this matter for high grade canned tomatoes cannot be made from poor raw stock.

In this connection the reports from the counties and the general discussion indicated the need for continued agitation of the plant bed idea. Even in such an unfavorable year as 1926 there is abundant evidence to show that results were secured where good plants were set in the field. Several successful community plant beds were carried on during the past season.

Considerable discussion of the early tomato crop brought out the fact that the average corn and wheat farmer could not be expected to give the time and attention required to handle hot beds and cold frames successfully. The consensus of opinion was to the effect that this method of producing plants locally is an essential element in the development of the early tomato project.

Reports from most sections show that the Marglobe tomato originated by F. J. Pritchard of the United States Department of Agriculture, had made a very favorable impression on the growers. Only moderate stocks of Marglobe seed has been saved by Maryland growers but plans are under way to produce considerable quantities in 1927. One of the characteristics of this variety is that it is resistant to the tomato wilt thus making it especially desirable for wilt infested areas.

Dr. Norton reported that practically all the leaf blight observed in the State the past season, was due to the early blight rather than the Septoria.

That tomato growers could fertilize their tomato fields more heavily than is usually done with profitable returns was brought out during the discussion.

A committee was appointed to formulate plans for carrying on the tomato improvement project for 1927.

Sweet Potatoes Certified

Interest on the part of Maryland sweet potato growers seems to be growing in the certification of this crop for seed purposes. Dr. R. A. Jehle of the Extension Service reports that 17 out of 18 applicants have had their stocks certified. They are still subject to the bin inspection which will occur during early winter. Information as to sources and quantities of seed stock available may be secured from the agents in Anne Arundel, Dorchester, Wicomico and Worcester Counties. It is understood that Wicomico County has the bulk of the certified stocks.

Bean Seed

From the tests conducted by the Maryland Experiment Station the past season, it appears that growers may find seed stocks from the arid regions of the west freer from anthracnose than that from other sources. Plans are under way for further tests along this line. It is hoped that cooperation with Western State officials may result in the development of sources of certified seed stocks for Maryland growers.

Yellows Resistant Cabbage

Experiences with the "Yellows" resistant strains of cabbage during the season of 1926 show that the merits of such strains was somewhat overshadowed by the attacks of the disease known as "black leg". Since this disease is carried on the seed it is essential that growers have their seed stocks treated before planting. County agents should be called on for assistance in treating seed for this disease. Some growers had considerable trouble with the cabbage maggot. Discussion of control

methods will have a place at the annual meetings in January.

Horticultural Show

At the recent horticultural show staged by the students at the University of Maryland, a feature was the exhibit of thirty-two varieties of Irish potatoes.

Compost Heaps

Provision should early be made for compost heaps in order to supply hot bed and cold frame with suitable soil for spring use. Because of Maryland's strategic position in relation to the markets, considerable expansion in the use of sash may be expected in the next few years.

Sources of Irish Potato Seed Stock

Tests carried on by the Extension Service indicate that good stock free from disease if matured under cool conditions may be expected to give good results regardless of the particular locality in which it is produced.

VEGETABLE GROWERS NEWS LETTER

Issued by

The Maryland Vegetable Grower's Association
W. R. Ballard, Sec. Treas.

Vol. 3. No. 12. College Park, Md. December 1926

All Set for the Annual Meeting

In room K of the Rennert Hotel, Baltimore, Md., at 9:30 A. M. sharp, on Wednesday morning, January 5th, 1927. Pres. John E. Patten is expected to wield the gavel calling to order the Ninth Annual meeting of the Maryland Vegetable Growers' Association.

The Secretary has consulted with other members of the organization and formulated the following program for the two sessions:

P R O G R A M

for

THE MARYLAND VEGETABLE GROWERS' ASSOCIATION

Wednesday, January 5, 1926.
9:30 A. M.

Call to order.....Pres. John E. Patten
Cambridge, Md

Report of Secretary-Treasurer.....W. R. Ballard
College Park, Md

Annual Address.....Pres. J. E. Pattem
Cambridge, Md

How I Produce and Market Asparagus.....George McKeown
Elkton, Md

Experimental Results in the Fertilizing
of asparagus.....Thos. H. White
College Park, Md

Maintenance of Soil Fertility in Trucking.....Francis Ridge Todd
Sparrows Pt. Md

Market Gardening in Western Maryland.....W. N. Eyler
Cumberland, Md

Future of Market Gardening on the Eastern Shore.....G. R. Cobb
Salisbury, Md

Appointment of Committees.

Thursday, January 6, 1926.
9:30 A. M.

Report of Committees.

The Marglobe Tomato and Its Performance in Maryland.....L. M. Goodwin
Denton, Md

The Control of Tomato Blights.....F. J. Pritchard
U. S. Department of Agriculture

Plant Bed Structures and the Production of early Plants.....W. B. Nissley
State College, Pa

Regional Production and Competition in the Marketing of Vegetables.....E. W. Stilwell
Bureau of Agricultural Economics,
U. S. Department of Agriculture.

The Control of Truck Crop Insects.....E. N. Cory
College Park, Md.

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The sessions are open to all who are interested in the production of vegetable crops. A cordial invitation is extended to all growers in the State not only to attend these meetings but also to join the Association which costs only $1.00 per year. This entitles the member to a copy of the annual report and to the Monthly News Letter issued from the Secretary's office.

Production of Greenhouse Vegetables

The growing of vegetables under glass has never become an important industry in Maryland. As the writer sees it, there are two important reasons why this situation should exist. The

first of these is the development of the shipping of fresh vegetables from the Southern States and even from Mexico. Even under present conditons there is hardly a season of the year when the markets are not supplied with fresh vegetables. Further increases in the production of fresh vegetables in southern sections may be expected in the future. The second reason why the production ofgreenhouse vegetables has not flourished in this State is that higher returns are usually secured from the growing of cut flowers and potted plants.

Where one desires to produce vegetables in the greenhouse however, tomatoes seem to be about as profitable a crop as any. They come into competition with the southern grown product but the quality of the greenhouse fruit is such as to command a higher price. Occasionally good returns are secured from a late crop of cucumbers. Radishes are sometimes profitable and sometimes not. Most of the growers who start in to grow vegetables under glass seem gradually to change over to producing flowers.

The Vitality of Seeds

It often happens that a grower will have a quantity of seed of some sorts, unused at the end of the season. The seeds of many vegetables will remain in good condition for several years provided they are properly taken care of. The following table gives the relative length of time seeds may be expected to retain their vitality when properly handled.

Kind of Vegetable	Years	Kind of Vegetables	Years
Asparagus	3	Parsley	1
Bean	3	Parsnip	1
Beet	4	Peas	2
Cabbage	4	Pepper	2
Carrot	2	Pumpkin	4
Cauliflower	4	Radish	4
Celery	3	Spinach	4
Cucumber	5	Salsify	1
Eggplant	5	Squash	4
Kale	4	Sweet corn	2
Lettuce	5	Tomato	3
Muskmelon	5	Turnip	4
Okra	3	Watermelon	5
Onions	3		

It is not always possible, however, to determine how old the seeds are when sold by thedealer. The only sure way to determine the vitality of the seed is to make a germination test.

Seeds to keep well in storage must first of all be mature, thoroughly cured and be kept in a dry place. The moisture

content of the seeds seems to be a more important factor than the temperature under which they are kept.

Some growers buy seeds of certain vegetables, a year in advance in order to grow a small plot for testing. In this way, it is possible to check up on the variety and thus avoid the heavy losses which might follow the heavy planting of seed of unknown performance. With certain vegetables it is undoubtedly worth while for the grower to save his own seed. This insures freshness of stock and consequent high percentage of germination.

Eliminating Sweet Potato Diseases

Hundreds of bushels of sweet potatoes are lost in Maryland every year from the attacks of black rot, stem rot and other diseases. In order that the growers may learn to recognize the more common diseases, the Extension Service is issuing a poster with photographs of sweet potatoes affected with black rot, stem rot and scurf. The poster gives directions for selecting treating and handling the seed stock as well as methods of controlling field conditions. It is possible to develop seed stock practically free from these troubles, and this is well worth while for every individual grower. It makes possible the development of certified seed stock on the part of growers who care to grow for this purpose.

The County Agent and plant pathologists are always ready to aid you in carrying forward any of these control measures. Circular No. 60 of the Extension Service gives complete information regarding sweet potato seed certification. A copy of this may be had for the asking. Maryland has a splendid opportunity to produce this crop, but the industry would be greatly benefitted by more careful control of these diseases.